

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCCT-01

L-03 H-02 PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 /103 W

----- 036998

R 120755Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON ET

SUEJECT: FOOD SITUATION EASES IN ASMARA

REF: A. ASMARA 669 B. ASMARA 675

1. ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (AUGUST 9 AND 10) AS MANY AS 300
HEAVY TRUCKS LOADED WITH WHEAT FLOUR AND SUGAR ARRIVED IN
ASMARA FROM TIGRE PROVINCE. THIS IS THE FIRST BREAK IN COMMERCIAL
TRAFFIC EMBARGO SINCE ITS EMPOSITION ON JULY 23. BOTH SUGAR AND
WHEAT FLOUR HAD BEEN UNAVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL DAYS CAUSING SHUTDOWN
OF BAKERIES (REF A).

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2. OSTENSIBLE BREACH OF FOOD EMBARGO IS REPORTEDLY BECAUSE

SOUTHBOUND SORGHUM CONVOY WAS FINALLY PERMITTED BY FRONT (ELF/PLF) TO LEAVE ADI UGRI AND PROCEED UNMOLESTED TO ADIGRAT AND MEKELE (PARA 4, REF B). IN ADDITION, IT IS REPORTED THAT SHIPMENT OF SALT WAS ALSO RECENTLY SHIPPED SOUTH FROM ASMARA. THUS IT APPEARS POSSIBLE UNOFFICIAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EPMG AND FRONT MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED TO PERMIT LIMITED RESTORATION OF COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC BETWEEN ASMARA AND MEKELE.

3. COMMENT: AS COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC FROM ASMARA TO AND FROM KEREN AND MASSAWA REMAINS SUSPENDED, IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE IF THIS NORTH-SOUTH COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE PRESAGES END TO TRAVEL RESTRICTION. NONETHELESS, ARRIVAL OF WHEAT FLOUR IN ASMARA IS GENERALLY ACCEPTE AS VERY FAVORABLE SIGN FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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